

roaming free from seat to seat, back and front and distracting you from driving.

Proper Use:

If your dog is to feel the true comfort of his or her “den”, they must associate safety and security with the crate. Start by placing a soft blanket or padding in the crate along with appropriate chew toys for the dog. Keep the door wide open for your dog to go in and out while you are there. You can stay by the crate with your dog and toss a treat or favorite toy into the crate while using a cue word such as “crate” or “kennel” to begin associating that word with that behavior.

Never use the crate as a “punisher” or form of discipline for your dog. This will only defeat the purpose of a safe and pleasant area where your dog can escape from the hectic world around it.

The Right Fit:

There are two basic types of crates. One is constructed of heavy molded plastic and generally referred to as an “airline kennel”. The other is a wire crate. The wire crate provides good ventilation and usually folds up for storage convenience. However, some dogs prefer the privacy and security of the less open-air type. If you have the wire cage, you can simply cover the crate with a towel or blanket to block out the outside world.

The crate should only be large enough for your dog to stand up, turn around and lie down comfortably with

legs stretched out. Bigger is not necessarily better when it comes to crates. If the crate is too big, your dog can find a corner far enough away from its sleeping area to eliminate, thereby losing the effectiveness of the crate for housetraining.

Most dogs enjoy small, almost cramped quarters. You will often find your dog curled up under your desk or chair — nice and cozy.

If you decide to invest in a large crate so that your pup can grow into it, somehow block off a portion so it fits him at this time. There are even some companies that have “crate rentals” that you may consider.

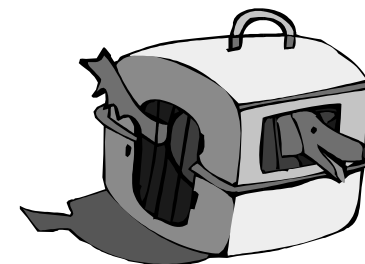
Remember that your dog does not look at a crate as a “canine jail system”. If introduced and used properly, it can be his home in a home, his place where he can get away from it all, a place where you and your dog can maintain your individual sanity.

ACCS DOG TRAINING CLASSES (602) 506-3471

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CRATING

A HUMANE ALTERNATIVE



Maricopa County Animal Care & Control, an organization dedicated to promoting and protecting the health, safety and welfare of pets and people in Maricopa County.

Maricopa County **Animal Care & Control**

PHOENIX
2323 South 35th Avenue
(Durango & 35th Avenue)

MESA
2630 West 8th Street
(Loop 101 & 8th St.)

PHOENIX
Pet Adoption Center
5231 N. 35th Avenue
(Between Camelback & Missouri)



602-506-PETS
pets.maricopa.gov

From the time when the wolf began roaming the lands, dens have been a very important and critical part of their existence. It was a place of safety and comfort, somewhere to escape from outside dangers for them and their pack. In the wolf den, mother wolves would keep the den clean of her pup's feces while they were confined to those close quarters, thereby teaching her young an invaluable lesson, the importance of a clean place to live.

Today the domestic dog has a genetic predisposition to follow the same good housekeeping as their ancestors. A crate can be considered a modern "dog den". If used properly, your dog will find the same safety and comfort in it as his wild cousins once did. And crate training is not only for the new pup who needs confinement for its own safety and training, but the adolescent and adult dog as well.

Crating also serves multipurpose functions:

Housetraining:

Crating is especially helpful in housetraining your new pup. We can take advantage of your dog's natural instinct to keep his sleeping area clean. Of course, you must also keep your dog on a regular schedule of feeding and elimination. Because I have yet to find a dog that can accurately tell time, it is the responsibility of the owner to remind Rover when and where to

relieve himself.

Make sure your pup has first done his business before putting him into the crate. Start with short intervals (half-hour to 45 minutes) at first. If your pup begins to whine or yap, do not go to him at this time. You will only reinforce in his mind that that's what it takes to get you over to him. Instead, wait until he settles down and then without excitement praise him which will reinforce that being quiet is what works.

As soon as he is set free, take him straight outside. If you prefer he eliminate in one spot in the yard, you can do this by putting the leash on your dog, take him to that spot and stand still while he investigates the area. As he sniffs and walks back and forth, quietly tell him "Good Boy" and use a cue word to associate with the elimination behavior, such as "Go Potty", or "Hurry" or whatever word you are comfortable with (He really won't mind). Once he is finished praise lavishly, perhaps even supplying a hidden treat from your pocket. It will not take long before he gets the message of where to go.

Do not allow your new pup to roam free in the house unsupervised. If you cannot keep an eye on him, back in the crate until you can. Consider the crate like a child's playpen. You obviously wouldn't allow an infant to wander about in the house alone while you did some gardening outside.

Problem Prevention:

For the dog who just can't resist that sofa cushion and the sight of all that wonderful stuffing flying in the air, or the savory taste of fine leather shoes or wooden table legs, crating can be the answer to your sanity. If confined to the crate, the destructive dog will have nothing but the toy or bone to chew on rather than your belongings.

Safety:

Puppies have a natural tendency to explore. If left to their own devices, pups would have no problem running free without restrictions. There are many dangers that unattended pups can encounter, from the tasty electrical cord plugged into the socket, to the family feline who has reached the end of its rope with this little furry thing that doesn't know when to quit.

Security:

A crate provides security for both you and your dog. Your dog will feel that sense of security from having a place to retreat from the big bad world out there and you will feel secure in knowing that your dog doesn't have to be put in a position of danger.

Dogs that need to be transported in vehicles are much more secure and safe in a seat belted crate than

